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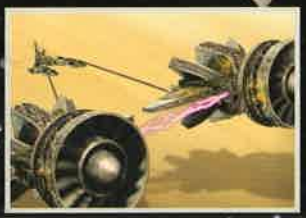
79

SEBULBA'S PODRACER

The devious Dug's mighty racer



Mars Guo's podracer

Podracing

DeAGOSTINI

LUCAS BOOKS

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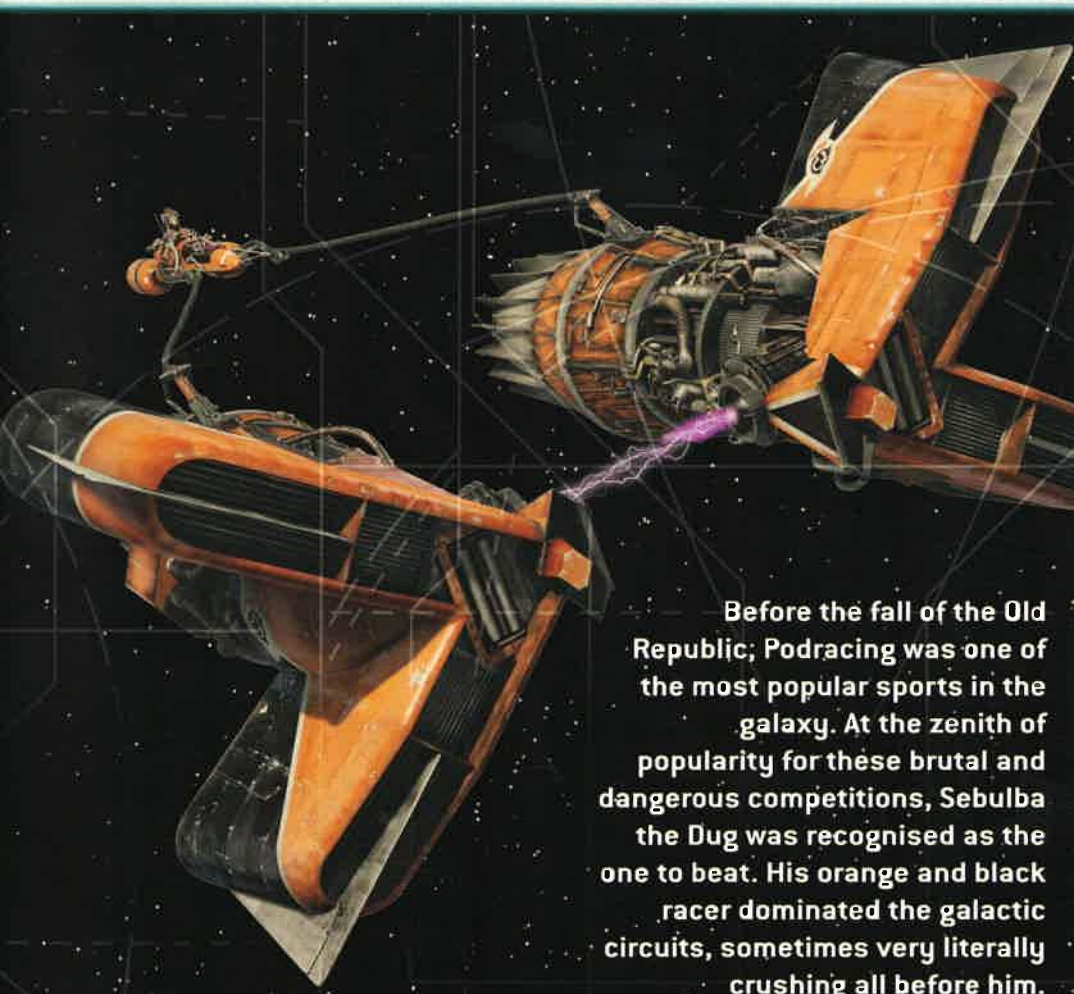
STAR WARS



Before the fall of the Old Republic, Podracing was one of the most popular sports in the galaxy. At the zenith of popularity for these brutal and dangerous competitions, Sebulba the Dug was recognised as the one to beat. His orange and black racer dominated the galactic circuits, sometimes very literally crushing all before him.

"SEBULBA THERE IS GOING TO WIN, I THINK."

WATTO TO QUI-GON JINN

SEBULBA'S PODRACER

THE PLUG-F MAMMOTH

The huge, orange-finished, split-X engines of Sebulba the Dug's Podracer were immediately recognisable to Podracing fans across the galaxy. Their unique, deep-pulsing, thrumming engine sound was like the panting growl of a pursuing predator. Coupled with the reputation of Sebulba himself, smart racers knew to stay out of the way.

Sebulba was an underhanded cheat and a bully. He was vicious and strong, and the size of his Podracer, with its ability to withstand damage that would cripple other machines, allowed him to throw his weight around on the track too. The two huge Collor Pondrat Plug-F engines were the bulk of the racer, with the Dug's pod being far smaller.

Built To Win

Sebulba wasn't a stupid being. A great deal of his winnings from races and wagers throughout the galaxy had gone into his Podracer. It was by no means the fastest racer around, nor the most agile, but it was in excellent repair and had the best on-board systems credits could buy. Of course, not all of those systems were legal. The fuel Sebulba used, tradium power fluid that was pressurised with quold runium and activated with ionised injectrine, was technically illegal. No check of the fuel tanks ever found the illegal mix for two reasons. Firstly, the quold runium was added by the compressor system and the injectrine was mixed through dummy igniters in the combustion chamber. Checking the main fuel tank would have revealed perfectly legal tradium. Secondly, with the likes of the Hutts betting on Sebulba, and with the Dug being so viciously vengeful, it would have been a suicidal race official who insisted on fully checking out Sebulba's racer. As a result, the Dug got away with modifications beyond simply his illegal fuel mix.

That's Gotta Hurt!

The weight of the Plug-F Mammoth engines allowed Sebulba to swat aside other racers easily. Their solid construction and the fact that, unlike many other Podracers, the vital systems were mostly covered by plating, meant the Dug could confidently crush opponents into the side of the track, knowing their racers would give before his. Over time, however, Sebulba added actual weapons to his racer. All of these were modular components, designed to be removed and concealed before a pre-race check,

and quickly refitted before the race began. The hidden weapons included a nail gun and, at one point, even a buzz saw that could tear apart opponents. Eventually, safe in the knowledge that he was unlikely to ever be caught, Sebulba installed a flame emitter on his right engine. It redirected high pressure burning fuel from the combustion chamber, blasting it out at unfortunate rivals who got too close.

PLAYING TO THE GALLERY

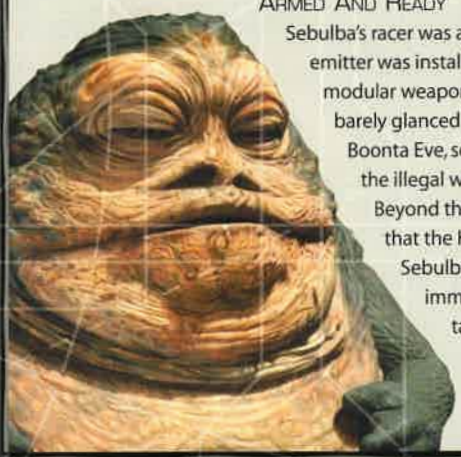
SEBULBA RACES THE BOONTA EVE CLASSIC

To Sebulba and almost every other being attending, the Boonta Eve Classic that took place on Tatooine 32 years before the Battle of Yavin was anticipated as just another glorious victory for the Dug. In fact, it would be the last time Sebulba raced his beloved Plug-F Mammoth.

Boonta Eve was an important holiday for the Hutts, and not just because it celebrated a great victory of the legendary Boonta the Hutt. The Boonta Eve Classic took place every year on Tatooine, and was a major source of gambling revenue for many Hutts – not just the race host, Jabba. The Classic was the major date in the Podracing calendar, and drew huge crowds both to the course on Tatooine and on (almost) simultaneous broadcasts to gambling venues across the galaxy.

Armed And Ready

Sebulba's racer was armed and ready. The flame emitter was installed, replacing previous modular weapons. The Dug's racer was barely glanced at by officials at the Boonta Eve, so there was no chance of the illegal weapon being discovered. Beyond the Dug's reputation, the fact that the Hutts were betting on Sebulba gave him a certain immunity. The Dug had even taken the chance to break off a piece of a rival's Podracer.



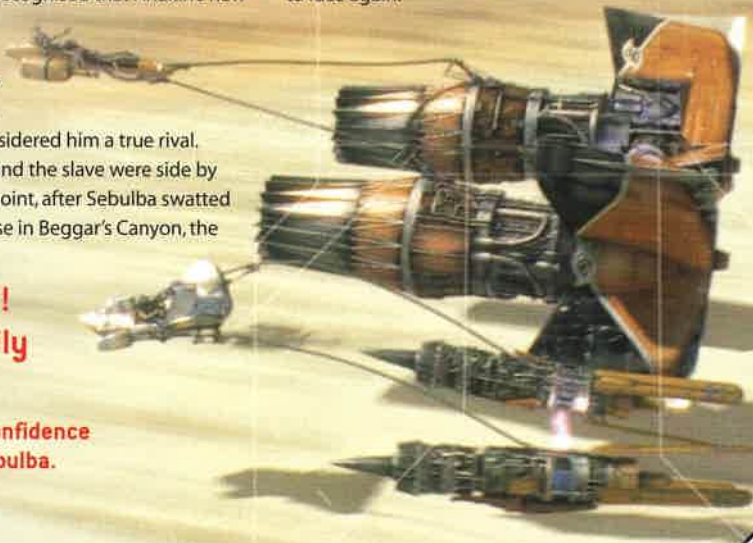
And They're Off!

In the opening minutes of the race, in the initial scramble for the lead, Sebulba used his engines' great bulk to slap aside the Gran Podracer Mawhonic, destroying his GPE-3130 but leaving the racer alive to challenge Sebulba again on Malastare. After this, Sebulba was in the lead. Not one to simply coast to victory after that, Sebulba understood the need to offer entertainment. In the second lap of the Classic, he used the flame emitter to burn out the engines on *Podracing Quarterly* journalist Clegg Holdfast's KV9T9-B Wasp. Thanks to the design of his cockpit, Sebulba had to hand a number of redundant components that could be put to other uses. Breaking off a piece, the Dug casually flipped it over his shoulder, straight into the intakes on one of the engines of Mars Guo's

Collor Pondrat Plug-2 Behemoth, destroying the engine and knocking Guo out of the race.

Beggar's Canyon,

Near the start of the third lap of the race, the unthinkable happened. Sebulba was caught by Anakin Skywalker – a human slave, and a mere boy. The Dug had recognised that Anakin's new racer (Sebulba had destroyed his last one) was built for speed, but hadn't considered him a true rival. Suddenly, he and the slave were side by side. At one point, after Sebulba swatted him off course in Beggar's Canyon, the boy managed somehow to get ahead. Though the pre-race sabotage knocked Anakin back for a short while, he managed to challenge Sebulba again. As the Dug tried to destroy the lighter pod, the two racers tangled together. Anakin boosted free, detaching Sebulba's cockpit pod from one engine. The resulting crash utterly destroyed the Plug-F Mammoth, but Sebulba survived to race again.



"He always wins! I'm betting heavily on Sebulba."

Watto expresses the confidence many beings had in Sebulba.

SEBULBA

AN ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS DUG

Sebulba was born into the Clan Sebolto in Pixelito City on the Dug homeworld Malastare. As a Dug, his early life was that of a slave worker, serving the masters of Malastare, the Gran. Like many Dugs, Sebulba was vicious and violent. Unlike most, however, Sebulba found an outlet in Podracing, becoming that most unusual of beings – a Dug superstar.

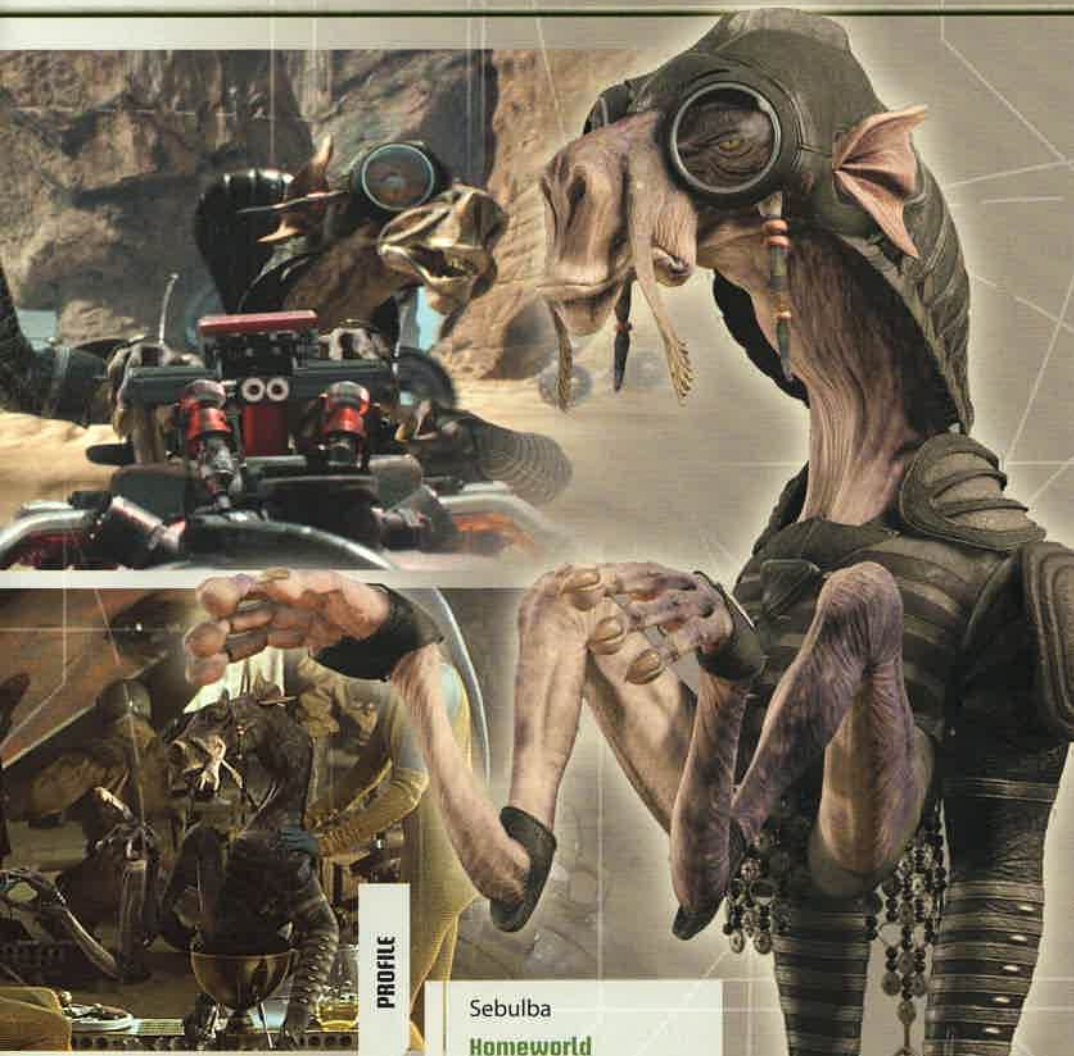
The Gran had colonised Malastare, going to war with the aggressive native Dugs in a conflict that was settled in favour of the Gran by the very distant Galactic Senate. The planet was even represented in the Senate by a Gran. Dugs were either enslaved or tied to slave-like contracts. However, a young Sebulba watched the podraces that blasted through Pixelito and dreamed. Somehow, the young Dug managed to get himself a race, and quickly showed a natural gift for piloting the dangerous pods. That was not all, though.

Watch Your Back

Sebulba's abilities as a Podracer pilot should not be underestimated. Yes, he cheated, sabotaged, threatened and bribed throughout his career, but if he had not been an excellent pilot too, all of that would have amounted to nothing. However, the key to Sebulba's success was that he knew what the crowds wanted. A rough estimate made while Sebulba was at the height of his career was that he could be linked in some way to over 70 dramatic, often fatal crashes per racing season. The crowds wanted spectacle, and Sebulba delivered. Every single time.

Living The High Life

Even before he began to travel the galaxy on the podrace circuits, Sebulba had started to take advantage of the opportunities that even local fame afforded him. There were many Dug



children born on Malastare for whom Sebulba was the very absent father. However, though he lived luxuriously, Sebulba was no fool.

"The next time we race, boy, it will be the end of you."

Sebulba to Anakin Skywalker

PROFILE

Sebulba

Homeworld
Malastare

Gender
Male

Height
1.12m

Weapons
Podracer

Affiliation
Himself

Building A Better Podracer

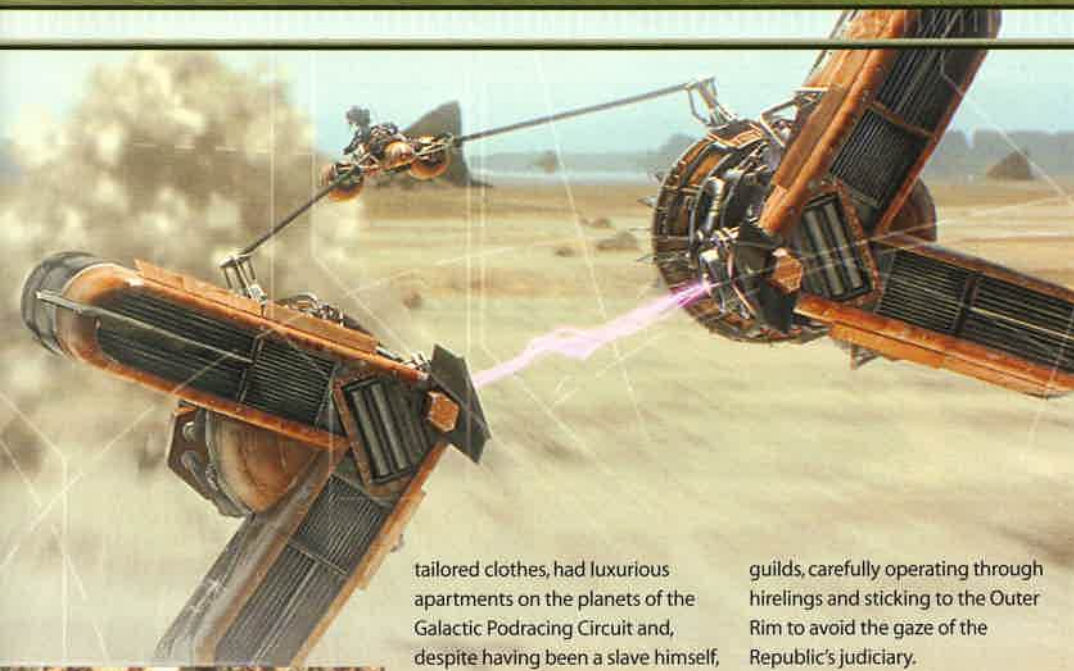
When he began racing, the young Dug had to use racers belonging to others. As soon as he could, Sebulba went independent and bought his own Podracer, pouring the majority of his winnings into maintaining and upgrading it. In his huge Collor Pondrat Plug-F Mammoth Podracer, Sebulba was a force to be reckoned with. The podracer's engine housings were fully armoured, allowing it to batter aside any smaller racers. Though Sebulba could do this quickly and easily in most cases, he knew the value of turning vindictive violence into a performance, and the crowds loved him for it. Those running gambling operations did too. As it became entirely expected that Sebulba would win a race, odds were instead given on how many other racers he'd take out during the competition.

Trappings Of Success

Having lost their planet to the Gran, and been enslaved into the bargain, the violence that many of the Dug people doled out came from the injustices they experienced on a daily basis. Constantly told of their worthlessness, the Dugs such as Sebulba revelled in any successes they had. Sebulba wore the best hand-

"You won't walk away from this one, you slave scum!"

Sebulba to Anakin



tailored clothes, had luxurious apartments on the planets of the Galactic Podracing Circuit and, despite having been a slave himself, Sebulba owned at least four Twi'lek females. His desire to have the best and to make sure others knew it extended to the oddest areas. Sebulba had his own fanfare composed for his entry into any given podrace arena, and coached his personal musicians to ensure it was played perfectly each time. To afford all of this, the Dug made full use of the illicit connections he acquired through the Podracing sponsors and gambling operations. As well as owning slaves himself, Sebulba participated in that most revolting of occupations – child slavery. He worked with both Gardulla the Hutt and various slave guilds, carefully operating through hirelings and sticking to the Outer Rim to avoid the gaze of the Republic's judiciary.

Unthinkable

When Sebulba lost to Anakin Skywalker at the Tatooine Boonta Eve Classic, the effect on his career was remarkably brief. The painful loss of his Plug-F was lessened by Sebulba's immediate purchase of the very Podracer that had beaten him. Quickly repainting the Podracer, Sebulba made a triumphant return to form in front of a home crowd on Malastare in the Phoebos Memorial Classic. Winning that race allowed Sebulba to rejoin the Galactic Circuit. The Dug was back, as though he'd never been away.

Keeping It In The Family

One of Sebulba's sons, Hekula, briefly took over piloting Sebulba's Podracer when the Dug retired six years after the Boonta Eve debacle. Sadly, Hekula wasn't very good, crashing the Podracer and destroying it in his first race. Angered and seeking to restore his family reputation, Sebulba bought a Plug-F Gargantuan and returned to racing eight years after losing to Anakin on Tatooine.

MARS GUO'S PODRACER

COLLOR PONDRAT PLUG-2 BEHEMOTH

Though Sebulba's huge Plug-F Mammoth was by far the most famous Podracer on the Galactic Circuit, it was not the biggest. That honour belonged to the Phuii pilot Mars Guo and his Plug-2 Behemoth.

The Boonta Eve Classic podrace was seen by many racers as a way in to the big time – the professional circuits. Only there could the serious credits be made, and the real fame attained. Already a success in the minor leagues, where he felt he'd outgrown the amateur and part-time racers, Phuii racer Mars Guo hoped that entering the Boonta Eve Classic would change his fortunes. However, a being should be careful of what he wishes for…

How To Win Enemies

Mars Guo almost immediately irritated the one racer that everyone else tiptoed around. Sebulba the Dug had long been known for having the largest Podracer on the pro circuit. Guo entered the Boonta Eve with his Plug-2 Behemoth. Its engines were shorter than Sebulba's racer but much wider, and Guo's cockpit was bigger. Suddenly, Sebulba was second-best in something, and the Dug didn't like that. Fortunately, Sebulba knew that the Behemoth was slower than the Mammoth, and also that Mars Guo was not as good a driver. The Dug was happy to let Guo crash out. But even before then Guo had made a terrible mistake.

All's Fair In Podracing

He may not have had the skills to be a top racer, but Mars Guo had the attitude. Arrogant to a fault, the little saurian drank too much and talked too loudly. Before the Boonta Eve Classic, he got drunk and made a pass at a Twi'lek girl called Ann Gella. She brushed him off, but not before Teemto Pagalies, another entrant for the race who was infatuated with Gella, immediately went and informed Sebulba. When Mars tried to pass Sebulba during the race the next day, the vengeful Dug broke off a redundant part of his cockpit and flipped it into one engine intake of Guo's Podracer. The engine tore itself apart. While Guo recovered in hospital, Sebulba vindictively organised the sale of all the Phuii's remaining belongings.

Plug-2 Behemoth PROFILE

Type
Repulsorlift Podracer

Size
Cockpit 4.11m long, engines 7.24m long

Maximum Speed
790km/h

Crew
1x pilot

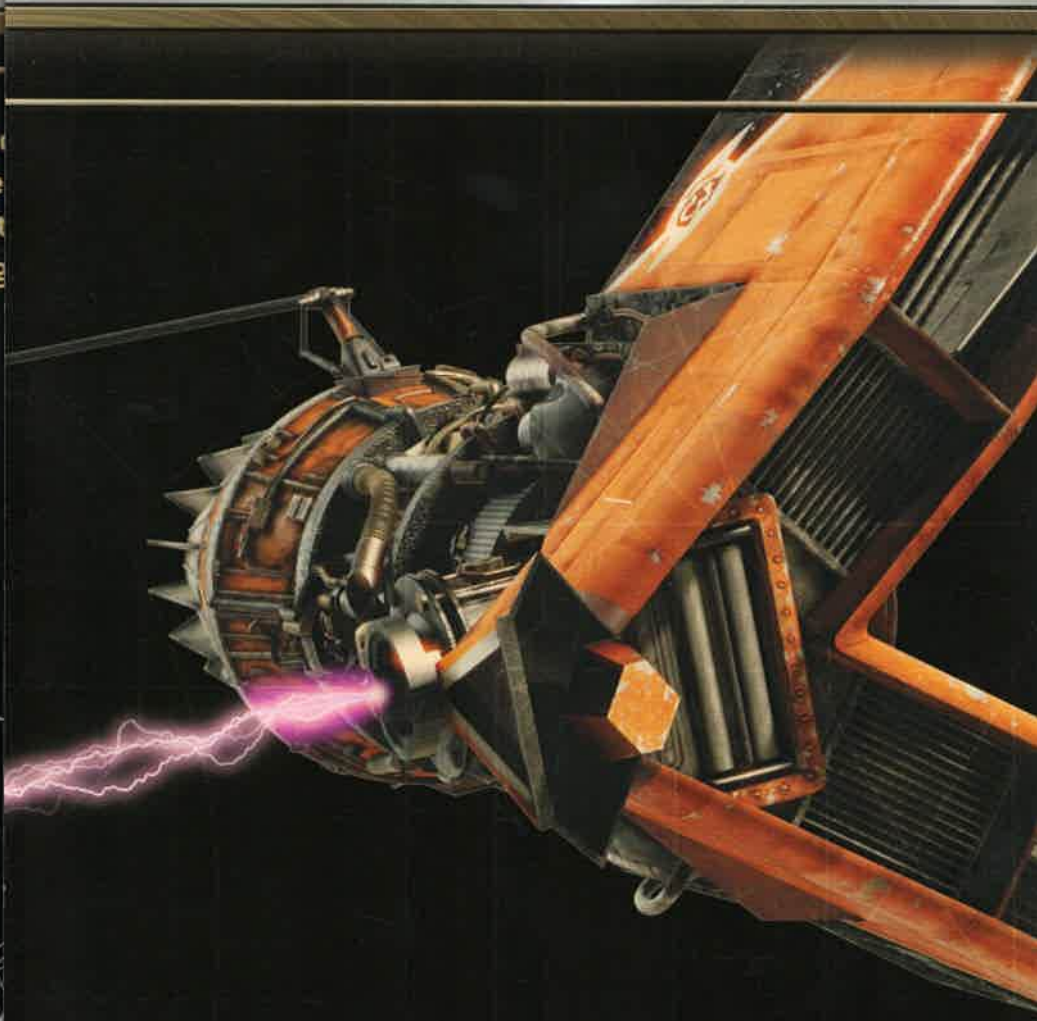
Weapons
None

Affiliation
Mars Guo

SEBULBA'S PLUG-F MAMMOTH

HEAVYWEIGHT RACER

The Plug-F Mammoth was a hefty racer, with a flight ceiling of only 85m. The fact that its engines were armoured so they could push aside other racers added to their weight, but allowed Sebulba's machine to survive hazards on the Boonta Eve Classic course that would have severely damaged lighter competition. This included the drop from the Mushroom Mesa into the Ebe Crater Valley on lap 3. The engines hit hard, but Sebulba easily maintained control.



SEBULBA'S PLUG-F MAMMOTH

Type
Heavy repulsorlift Podracer

Manufacturer
Collor Pondrat

Size
Cockpit 3.96m long, engines 7.47m long

Maximum Speed
829km/h

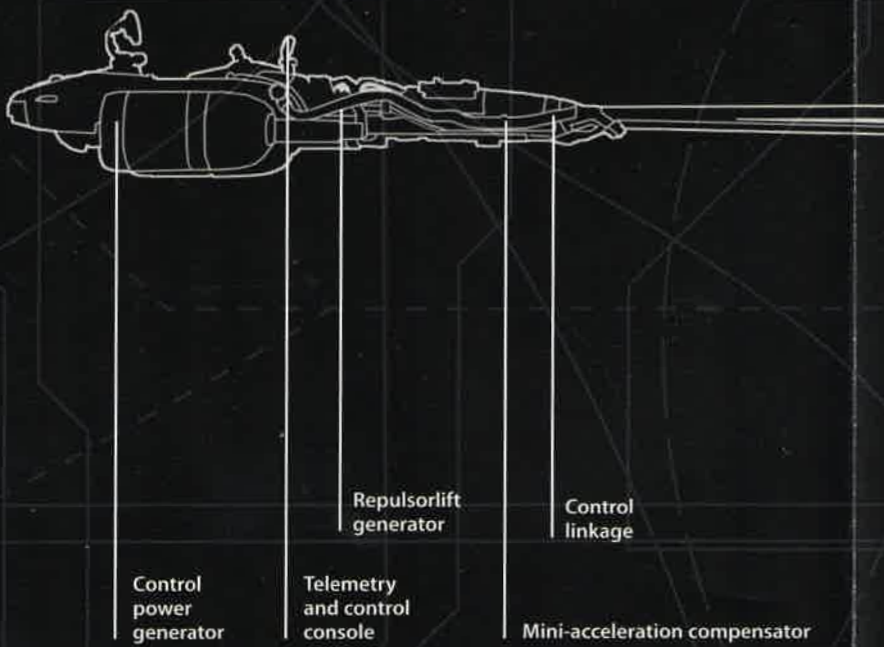
Maximum Altitude
85m

Engines
2x Collor Pondrat Plug-F engi

Weapons (Boonta Eve Class
Flame emitter

Crew
1x pilot

Affiliation
Sebulba the Dug



During the height of his popularity, Sebulba was
to design his own podracing course on Malastar
Sebulba's Legacy. Officially opened a little after
was immediately added to the Galactic Podraci

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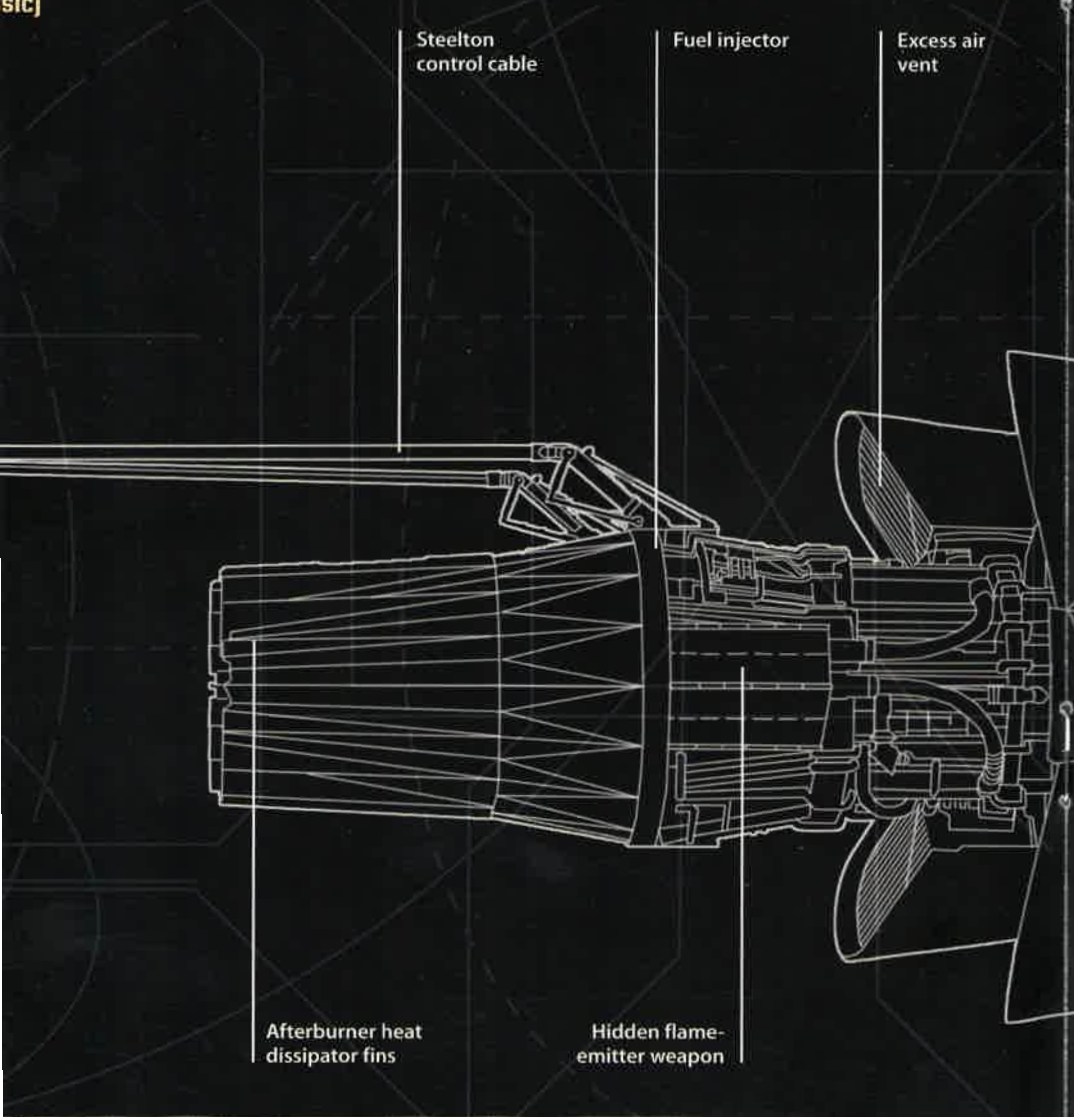
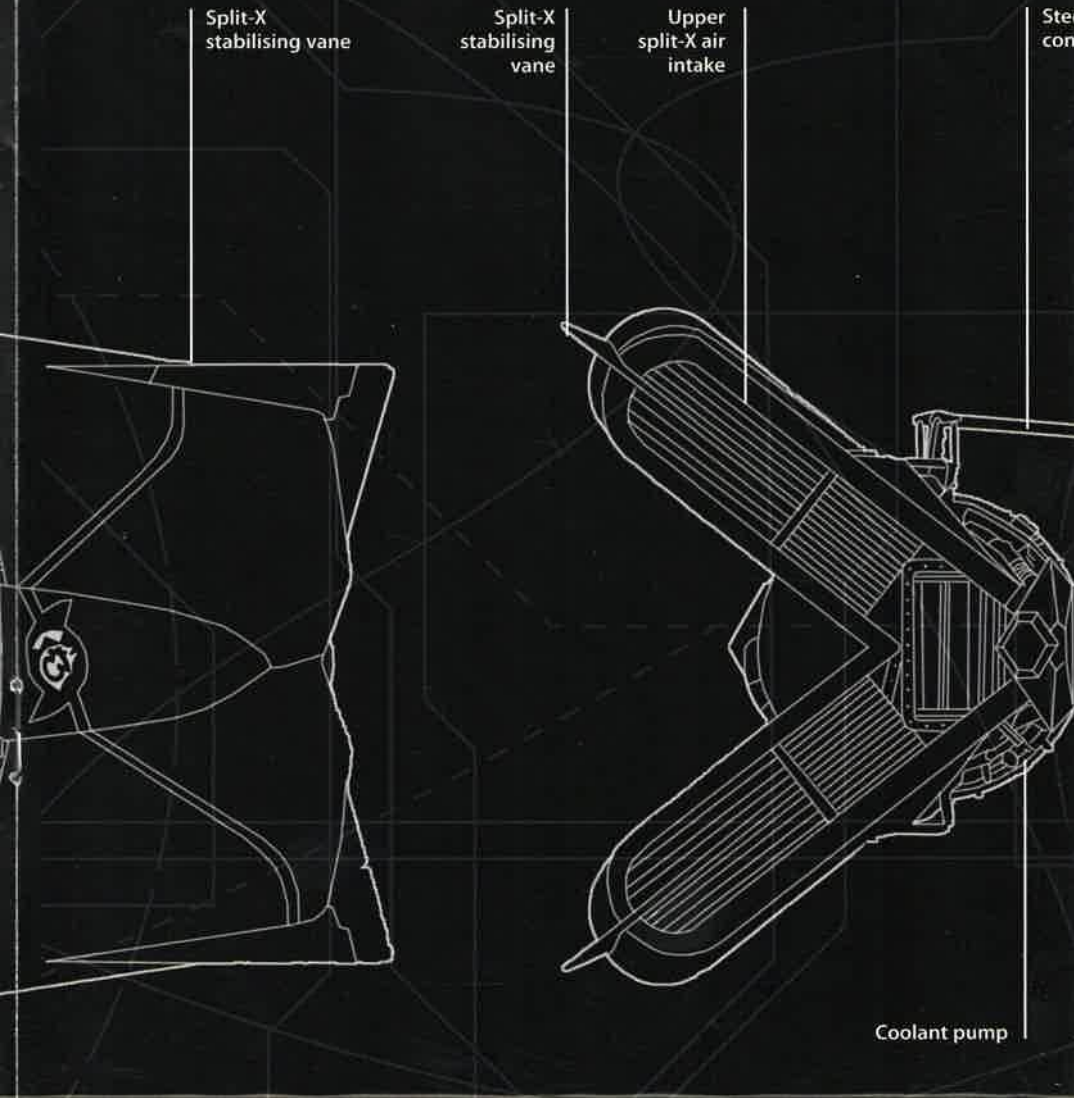


as offered the opportunity
are. The result was called
er the Battle of Naboo, it
ing Circuit

Dugs evolved from arboreal
either their hands or their feet w
Dugs (including Sebulba) wa
their bodies swinging between
and feet to control his podra
specially modified so it fi
non-standard controls and th
stealing the Dug's podra



Hands-on

mammals, and could use
ith equal dexterity. Most
lked on their hands, with
. Sebulba used his hands
acer, and had the cockpit
tted him like a glove. The
e confined cockpit made
acer a near-impossibility.

elton
trol cable

Cockpit

Energy binder generator

Upper split-X air intake

Energy binder arc

Split-X repulsor generator housing

BOONTA EVE CLASSIC

THE FINISHERS

The Boonta Eve event where Anakin Skywalker achieved the impossible to win the race and his freedom while still only a boy has become the stuff of legend. Many focus on Anakin and his nemesis, Sebulba the Dug. However, there were many other pilots in the race – and these were the ones who finished it.

2ND – GASGANO
(CUSTOM-BUILT ORD PEDROVIA PODRACER)
Hailing from the planet Troiken, Gasgano was a Xexto with four arms and prehensile feet and toes. As a result, he could easily manage his Podracer's many systems. His custom-built pod had amazing acceleration, but lacked cooling systems. Reckoned to be Sebulba's only real threat, he had to be content with second place and, with Sebulba out of racing for a few months, a chance to win a few races and boost his career.

3RD – ALDAR BEEDO
(MANTA RAMAIR MARK IV FLAT-TWIN TURBOJET PODRACER)
A skinny Glymphid from Ploo II, Aldar Beedo was actually a mercenary and a hired killer. At the Boonta Eve, he was hired by Wan Sandage to kill Sebulba, little knowing that racer Elan Mak was actually Kam Nale, son of a crime lord Beedo had killed before the race. Both Nale and Beedo failed to kill their targets. Many years later, having spent so long chasing after Sebulba that a mutual respect grew between the Dug and Aldar, Beedo became Sebulba's hired bodyguard. The Glymphid flew interference for Sebulba during podraces, dealing with threats the Dug might otherwise have missed. Years later, at the Fire Mountain Rally on Baroonda, he was shot down and captured by a bounty hunter.

4th – Ebe E. Endocott (JAK Racing J930 Dash-8 Podracer)

Ebe was a delivery driver so recklessly efficient that his employers suggested he become a Podracer. The Triffian did so, obtaining some sponsorship and saving enough to buy his Dash-8 racer. Ebe's natural abilities, and endless practice speeding through the artificial 'canyons' of his home city, allowed him to win many races on the Semipro Podracing Circuit – including three consecutive Dug Derby wins on Malastare. Largely outclassed at the Boonta Eve, he stayed on at Tatooine after the Classic, becoming a local champion as he honed his skills further.

"...everyone knows that it's the danger, death and massive explosions that fill the seats. Safety doesn't sell."

Podracer Tzidik Wrantolo, HoloNet News vol. 532, #49

5th – Elan Mak (Kurtob KRT 410-C Podracer)

Elan Mak was a real wild card at the Boonta Eve Classic. With no past record as a Podracer (he bought his way into the race), and piloting a clapped-out, ancient 410-C, no one paid the little Fluggrian any notice. This suited Mak perfectly. He was actually Kam Nale, an undercover assassin entered in the race in order to kill Aldar Beedo, and thoughts of placing were far from his mind. However, finish he did, and buoyed up by this success, 'Elan Mak' became a regular fixture at podraces. He replaced his old pod with a Dantel R0 Conejet and began to win races and fans. In the end, Beedo was dealt with by a bounty hunter hired by someone else, leaving Mak to get on with his career.

6th – Boles Roor (Bin Gassi Racing Engines Quadrijet 4-Barrel 904E Podracer)

One of the real entertainers of the Podracing professional circuit, the Sneevel glimmik singing sensation Boles Roor had actually semi-retired from Podracing when he entered the Boonta Eve Classic – a race he'd won twice in his early days. Boles had retired to concentrate on his very successful singing career, managing to easily sell out the million-seater Kallarak Amphitheatre on Coruscant over a number of consecutive nights. However, his Podracer was not well maintained, and he finished more than 30 seconds behind Elan Mak.

Best Days Passed

Ten years on from Anakin winning the Boonta Eve Classic, attendances were down by 51 per cent. Swoop racing had begun its rise to prominence, thanks in part to aggressive reporting into the corruption rife in Podracing. Safety campaigners had banned individual races for their violations, and courses on 12 worlds had been modified to make them less dangerous. The Boonta Eve Race itself was cancelled after Jabba's Desilijic Clan suffered heavy financial penalties when Zorba the Hutt was arrested and convicted for his many crimes.

PODRACING

HIGH SPEED, HIGH STAKES, HIGH RISK

Tracing its roots to races between carts pulled by animals, podracing was hugely popular, despite being mainly based in the Outer Rim. At the height of its popularity in the last decades of the Old Republic, races were beamed to gambling dens across the galaxy, and racers earned huge sums from sponsors, regardless of the basic illegality of the sport.

As well as a number of unofficial amateur leagues, mostly based on single planets or systems, there were three official leagues in the Galactic Podracing Circuit (GPC). Several one-off races and testimonials took place both during the season and in the off-season. Many of these tended to be memorial races commemorating popular pilots who had been crippled or killed during the previous season. Very few podrace pilots lived to retire by choice.

Risky Business

Despite the 'official' nature of the GPC, this attempt to give some kind of respectability to Podracing was very much window-dressing. The Galactic Podracing Circuit Underwriters' Union, on the surface an alliance of insurance agents providing cover to Podracers and their teams as well as to arena operators, was essentially little more than a protection racket prone to hiring bounty hunters to deal with problems. Because of the risks involved and the dangerous technology used, the podraces were technically illegal. Only their popularity, the money involved and their connections to organised crime – particularly the Hutt clans – kept the whole sport going.

In League

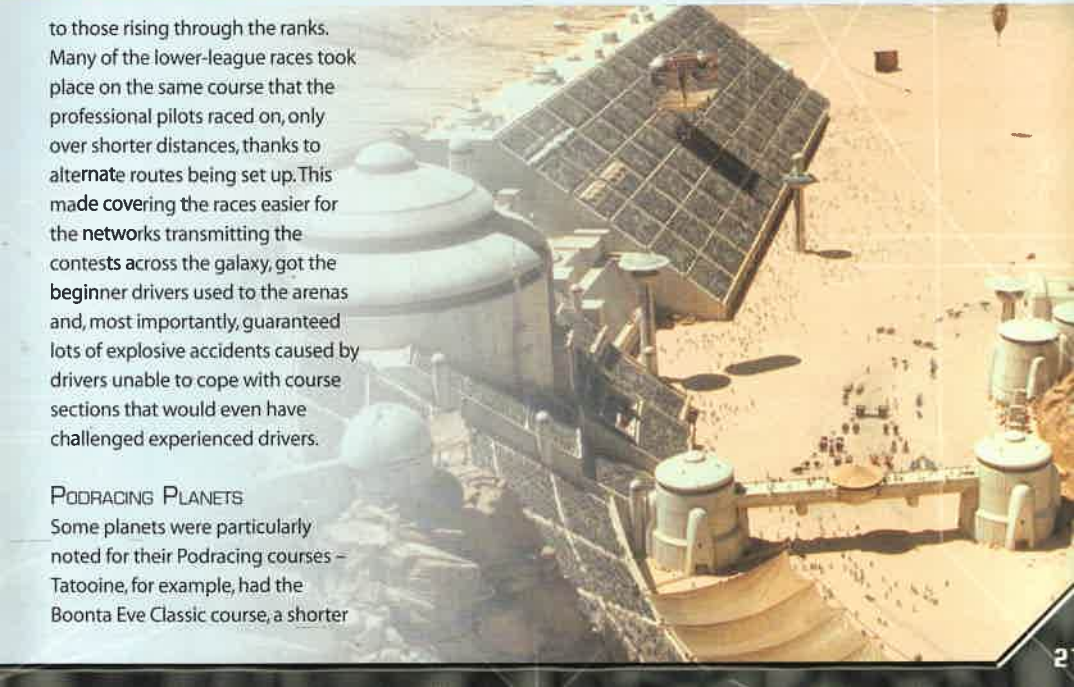
Races were organised around the Amateur Podracing Circuit, the Semipro Podracing Circuit, and the Professional Podracing Circuit, with the professional often just being called the Galactic Podracing Circuit. Each was as dangerous as the other

Although Podracing was illegal, there were even a few races organised in the Core Worlds. However, the Outer Rim Territories were the Podracing heartland.

to those rising through the ranks. Many of the lower-league races took place on the same course that the professional pilots raced on, only over shorter distances, thanks to alternate routes being set up. This made covering the races easier for the networks transmitting the contests across the galaxy, got the beginner drivers used to the arenas and, most importantly, guaranteed lots of explosive accidents caused by drivers unable to cope with course sections that would even have challenged experienced drivers.

Podracing Planets

Some planets were particularly noted for their Podracing courses – Tatooine, for example, had the Boonta Eve Classic course, a shorter



Although Podracing was banned by the Empire, it survived here and there in the Outer Rim Territories, and its popularity surged again some 130 years later.

Hard Time

Podracing could be found in the most unusual places. The high-security prison complex of Desolation Alley on the large asteroid Oovo IV ran four races in various leagues of the GPC. Sections of the course were in zero gravity, keeping pilots on edge as conditions changed. During one season, an Exogorth space slug began to break through onto a section, adding a new hazard to the course dubbed 'Executioner'.

version of which was used for amateur Podracing events. All of the following planets featured on the Galactic Podracing Circuit.

Mon Gazza

A Mid-Rim planet, Mon Gazza was a spice mining planet and a notorious 'shadow port', favoured by smugglers and bounty hunters. The mines, abandoned and otherwise, were used for three different courses; two in the Amateur League, and one in the Semipro League which included a dangerous leap over toxic sludge.

Ando Prime

Another Mid-Rim world, Ando Prime's snow and ice fields, its deep chasms and long stretches of water piping that supplied the mining communities were ideal for spectacular podraces. One course in the Amateur League was named Beedo's Wild Ride after Aldar Beedo won there in consecutive seasons. There were four other courses in the GPC, with another, the Ungassan Cross Country, later established by a crime lord seeking a cover for his mining operations.

Aquilaris

This water world in the Outer Rim Territories suffered badly during the New Sith Wars. Its cities were rebuilt, but it struggled to recapture its former glory as a resort world. The transparisteel tunnels that linked the planet's floating cities became a perfect venue for Podracing, and Governor Nave Vengaris encouraged this. The result was an economic boom for the planet that proved short lived. When the Empire banned Podracing, Aquilaris returned to being a very literal backwater planet.

Malastare

Podracing was so popular on Malastare, homeworld of the famous racer Sebulba the Dug, that one course even passed directly through the planetary capital, Pixelito. Sebulba's Legacy, a particularly challenging course, was designed by Sebulba himself. The Vinta Harvest Classic, however, was the race that Sebulba chose to mark his return after being knocked out of the Boonta Eve Classic by Anakin Skywalker. The Dug used Anakin's pod, which he had bought from Qui-Gon Jinn on Tatooine, and won the race easily.

DESIGNING A DUG

SCULPTING SEBULBA

The Boonta Eve Classic in Episode I is a pivotal moment in the film, demonstrating to the audience that Anakin Skywalker has abilities far beyond those of normal human. However, the thrill of the race would have been diminished but for the presence of Anakin's nemesis – the devious Sebulba the Dug.

The challenge with Sebulba was that he had to immediately establish himself as one of the villains of the film – both visually and in his actions. The Dug's first appearance in the film was attacking Jar Jar Binks after one of the Gungan's many innocent accidents. Anakin stepped in to prevent Binks being turned into orange goo, with the Huttese dialogue between the slave and the aggressive alien immediately establishing the relationship between the two as being very far from a friendly rivalry. However, all that would have been diminished if Sebulba looked in any way weak. Fortunately, one look at Sebulba told you all you needed to know – this guy was trouble.

Spidery Look

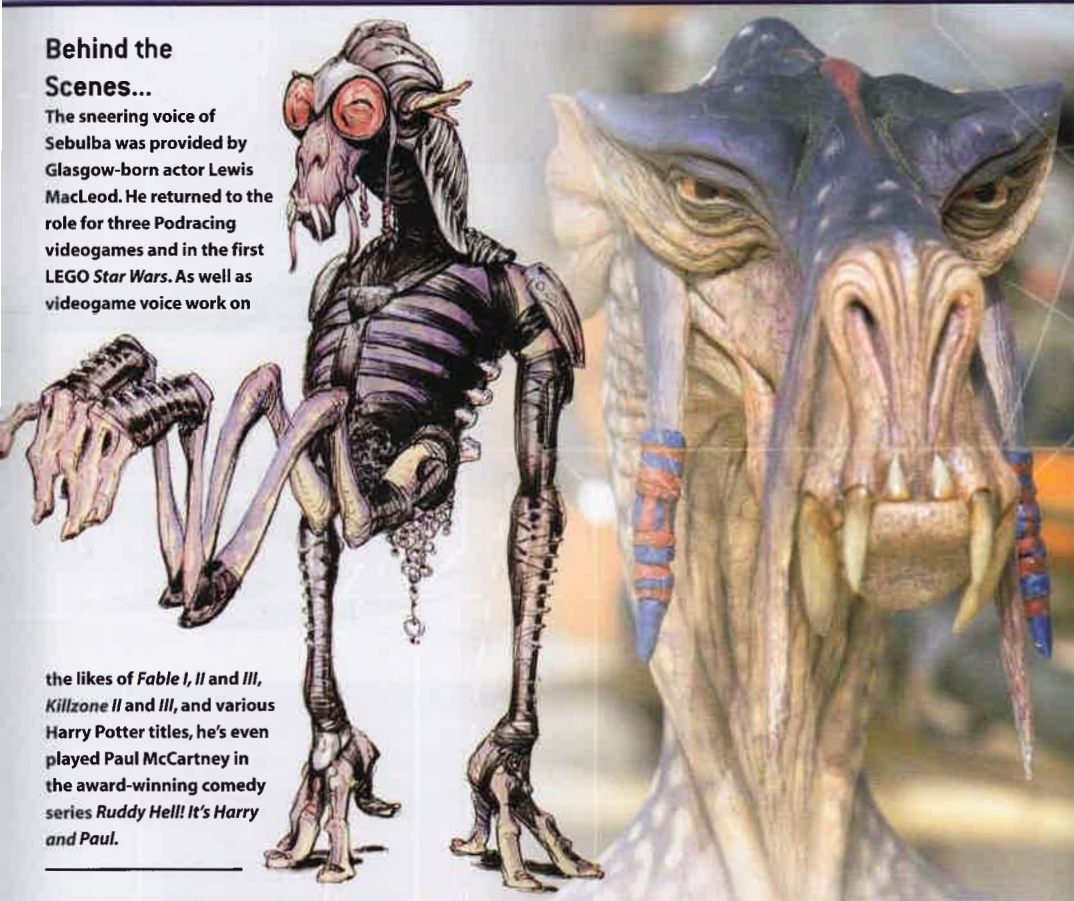
Director George Lucas described Sebulba as 'spidery, imagining a character with a tangle of agile limbs, each of which could act as hands or feet. At the same time, despite being light and small enough to fit the Podracer, the alien had to look strong enough physically to be convincing as a threat both on and off the track. Sebulba was given a thin, sinewy strength. His mean, thin face was based on that of a bad-tempered camel. Original designs showed the Dug with tusk-like teeth, but these were dropped to make the job of lip-synching a lot easier. Sebulba's outfit, based on medieval armour, included goggles that magnified his expressive eyes to add to his sinister appearance.

Foam Rubber

During the production of Episode I, new recruit Robert Barnes moved from ILM to become a Production Assistant on the movie. Part of his vital job was to build models that quickly allowed the team to experiment with shots, and to give cast and crew an idea of what digital characters and sets would look like. He helped to construct 1:24-scale miniatures of the Podracers to test-out shots for the race, and also built a life-sized foam rubber model of Sebulba and his cockpit for other tests. A foam Sebulba – all part of the magic!

Behind the Scenes...

The sneering voice of Sebulba was provided by Glasgow-born actor Lewis MacLeod. He returned to the role for three Podracing videogames and in the first LEGO *Star Wars*. As well as videogame voice work on the likes of *Fable I, II* and *III*, *Killzone II* and *III*, and various Harry Potter titles, he's even played Paul McCartney in the award-winning comedy series *Ruddy Hell! It's Harry and Paul.*

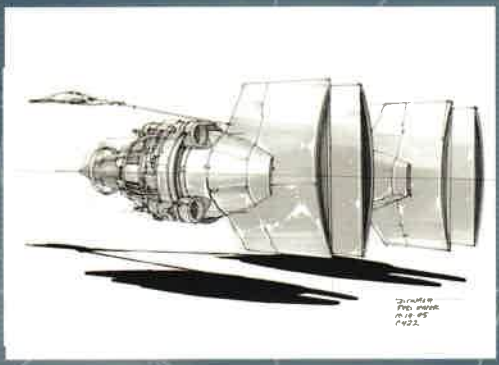


SEBULBA'S PODRACER

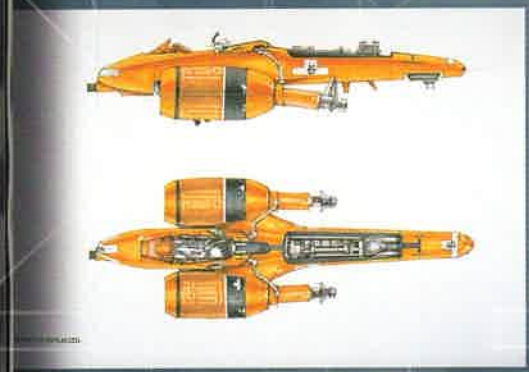
VARIED DESIGNS

DEVELOPING THE DUG'S RACER

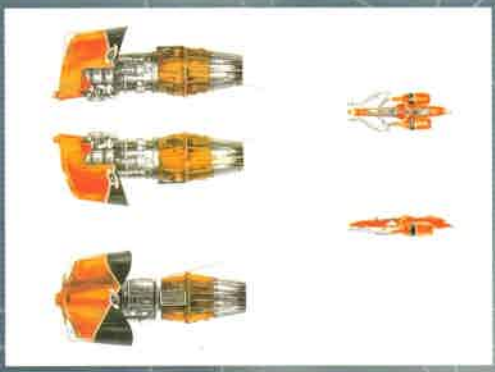
1 All of the Podracers began life with George Lucas's instruction that the racers are "two jet engines and a cockpit".



2 Doug Chiang's early design work on Sebulba's Podracer ended up providing ideas that would be used for the vehicles of other racers.

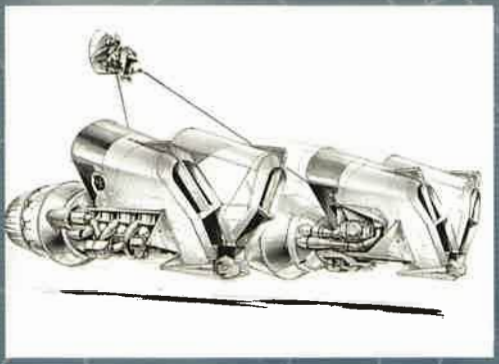


5 Shuster based the pod on the design of the Fairchild A-10 Thunderbolt fighter jet.



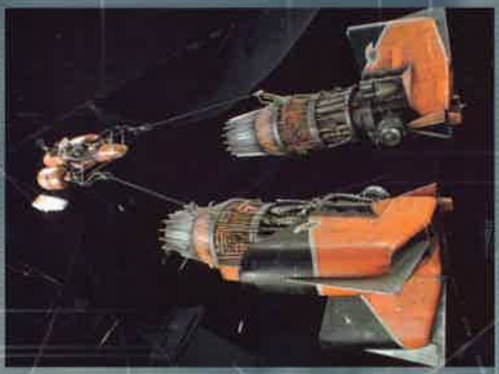
6 The colours Shuster picked were based on the paint job on his father's car.

Early versions of Sebulba's Podracer, developed by Doug Chiang, eventually became the shovel-fronted design of Dud Bolt's Vulptereen 327, Aldar Beedo's MARK IV Flat-Twin Turbojet, and Teemto Pagalies' IPG-X1131 LongTail. The final designs were refined by artist Jay Shuster.

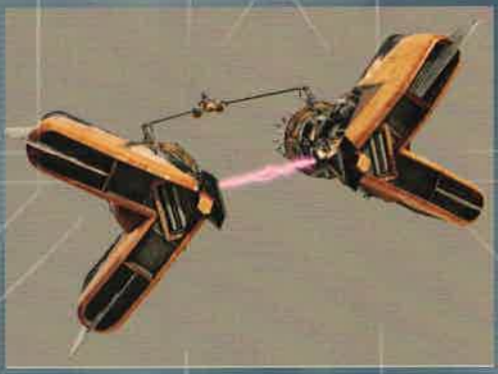


3 Artist Jay Shuster refined the design of the split-X engines. Originally, they were configured as you see in the above picture.

4 In this close section of the previous sketch, the original pilot's pod closely resembles the speederbike Darth Maul used on Tatooine...



7 The production model of Sebulba's Podracer, set up and ready for filming.



8 The digital version of the Podracer, complete with pilot and glowing energy binders.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Which major Expanded Universe character makes his one and only film appearance in the scene that first introduced us to Sebulba?

2 The high-security prison Oovo IV features in the video-game ***Star Wars: Bounty Hunter***. What ship does Jango Fett liberate from the prison?

3 Sebulba adorned his Podracing outfit with what?

ANSWERS:

1. Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn. He is in the Mos Espa café on Tatooine in which Sebulba is also shown eating.

2. After losing his own ship, Jango finds a flight group of experimental *Firespray*-class patrolships. He steals one and destroys the others. Jango then gave his new ship its name – *Slave I*.

3. Sebulba hung trophy coins from his outfit, along with a number of Dug charms that reputedly fended off death and injury.

UTAPAU – XAGOBAH

Utapau

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Utapau System

The natives of Utapau escaped harsh surface conditions by building their cities inside the many sinkholes that opened up. These were caused by the subterranean sea that encircled much of the planet. Utapau was where Obi-Wan Kenobi finally killed General Grievous.

Vjun

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Vjun System

This planet in Sith space was rendered barren and inhospitable by acidic rain. A refuge for Sith escaping the fall of their empire, Count Dooku and Darth Vader had homes there. Vader's was the impressive Bast Castle, where he kept Obi-Wan Kenobi's lightsaber after the duel on the Death Star.

Vortex

Region: Mid Rim Territories
System: Ten Tempests System

Vortex's violent weather scoured it of vegetation taller than grass. The winged Vors built the great crystalline Cathedral of Winds that could be 'played' when the Vors used their bodies to block openings in the structure. It was forbidden to record any of the haunting tunes.

Vulpter

Region: Deep Core
System: Vulpter System

A once-fertile planet blighted by toxic waste, this was HQ of Arakyd Industries – makers of the Viper probe droids – and a major production centre for Podracers. The native Vulptereen were tricked into signing exploitative agreements with the Trade Federation.

Wayland

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Wayland System

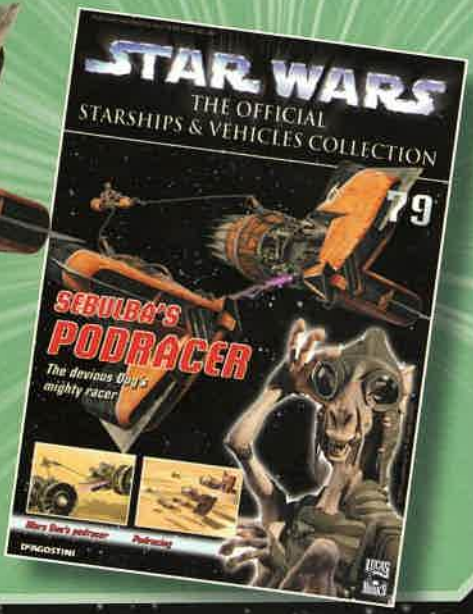
Although colonised early in the history of the Galactic Republic, a filing error 'lost' Wayland for hundreds of years. Emperor Palpatine rediscovered it and hollowed out Mount Tantiss to contain pieces of technology he wished to keep secret, including a massive cloning facility.

Xagobah

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Xagobah System

The clouds in Xagobah's atmosphere were created by the spores and pollen from the flora of this lush world. A CIS stronghold in the Clone Wars, it was eventually freed by the Republic. The native Xamsters were metre-tall sentient reptiles who suffered greatly during the Clone Wars.

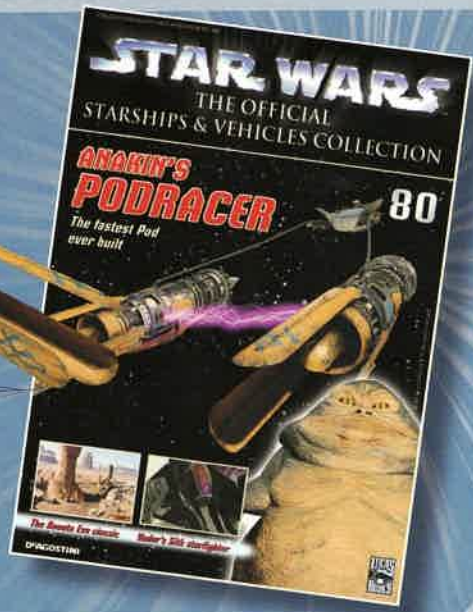
IN THIS ISSUE



WITH ISSUE 79: SEBULBA'S PODRACER

Model unavailable for photography at time of going to print.

IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE



WITH ISSUE 80: ANAKIN'S PODRACER

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